

Availability of food stock and appropriate distribution

1279. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Conference of Food and Agriculture Ministers of the States and UTs on Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and for providing for storage facilities was held in New Delhi on February 8 and 9, 2012; and

(b) if so, what are the details of important decisions taken up at the Conference on adequate availability of food stocks, appropriate distribution as well as storage facility to be provided for foodgrains etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) A two day Conference on Targeted Public Distribution System and Storage with Food and Agriculture Ministers and Secretaries of States/UTs was held on 8th and 9th February, 2012 at New Delhi.

Among the various issues discussed, in view of the likely increase in requirement of foodgrains in States for the purpose of ensuing Food Security Act, it was deliberated that all the States, particularly the emerging non-traditional procurement States, should step up their procurement activity.

As a measure to bring transparency in the functioning of PDS and reduce the incidences of leakages/diversion, black-marketing, etc. during distribution of PDS commodities, the Conference discussed regarding expeditious action to be taken by States towards Computerisation of PDS.

The Conference also reviewed the progress relating to creation of storage capacity and time-bound completion of ongoing projects with a view to enhance the storage capacity and avoid damage to stored foodgrains. Further, States were urged to scale up construction of intermediate storage facilities – both at district and Fair Price Shop level.

The proceedings and draft recommendations of the Conference are in the process of finalization.

Condition of godowns

1280. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some godowns owned by Government agencies are not in working condition despite the country is facing shortage of storage capacity and rotting of foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any responsibilities have been fixed in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) A total capacity of 3.67 lakh tonnes is not in working condition with the FCI, which is about 1% of the total capacity available with FCI. The details are given in the Statement (See below).

(c) The storage capacities which are not in working condition are old and are thus not in use. Therefore no responsibility has been fixed in this regard.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

The details of capacity not in working condition

Sl.No.	Name of Centre	Capacity (in MT)	Remarks
1.	Borivili/Mumbai (Shell type roof)	15,000	Capacity not in use due to collapse of roof structure which has outlived its life.
2.	Mayapuri/Delhi (Silos)	21,000	The silos were constructed during the year 1973-74 and are not in use.
3.	Khurja/Uttar Pradesh (Silos)	20,000	The silos were constructed during the year 1978-79 and are not in use.
4.	Chanderi (Kanpur)/ Uttar Pradesh (Silos)	72,000	The silos were constructed during the year 1962-63 and are not in use.
5.	Borivili/Mumbai (Silos)	1,04,000	The silos were constructed during the year 1962-63 and are not in use.
6.	Manmad/Mumbai (Silos)	84,000	The silos were constructed during the year 1962-63 and are not in use.
7.	Gaya/Bihar (Silos)	32,000	The silos were constructed during the year 1962-63 and are not in use.
8.	Kolkata Port (West Bengal)/Silos	19,000	The silos were constructed during the year 1962-63 and are not in use.
TOTAL		3,67,000	

Procurement of Samba rice

1281. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether FCI would procure Samba rice;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;